



# Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Missouri

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## **ST. LOUIS AREA MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 8 YEARS PRISON AFTER EMAILING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY TO AN UNDERCOVER AGENT**

ST. LOUIS, MO - James B. Michalke was sentenced to eight years and one month in prison for possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

“Those who possess child pornography create a market for pictures of the sexual abuse of children,” said Hanaway. “These defendants will receive lengthy prison sentences.”

In May 2004, an undercover detective from Ohio was in an AOL chat room that was frequented by individuals interested trading child pornography. The members of the chat room indicated that it was for “traders only.” The detective typed “list me” while in the chat room which indicated that he wished to receive emails containing photographs. Michalke sent him three emails, two of which contained images of minor females in sexually explicit poses. St. Louis County Police detectives visited Michalke at his residence to question him about child pornography and he consented to a search of his computer. The search revealed number images of child engaged in sexually explicit conduct which had been obtained over the internet.

Michalke, 54, 2600 block of Tuckahoe, St. Louis, 63124, pled guilty in July to on felony count of possession of child pornography and appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Donald J. Stohr. Judge Stohr sentenced Michaelke to 97 months in prison, a \$500 fine and a lifetime term of supervised release upon his release from prison.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov)

Hanaway commended the work on the case for the St. Louis County Police Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service and Assistant United States Attorney Carrie Costantin, who handled the case for the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

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